

Today's News - Wednesday, November 26, 2008

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're taking a Thanksgiving Day break, and will return Monday, December 1.

- Outcries continue as New Orleans moves ahead with hospital plans; question: why here "when so much of the city lies empty and unused?" (answer: it's too bad, but it's "just the reality of life" - bah humbug, we say).
- If Boston allows a gem to be demolished, at least replace it with something other than banal corporate glass and stone.
- In Melbourne, the financial crisis could actually herald a "golden era" for architecture (along with some tough times).
- Greer takes on Homes for the Future: zero carbon? Maybe. gracious? No. "Wow factor"? Hardly. - It took us a while, but we found an eyeful of the shortlisted - you decide.
- Woodman is wowed by Pei's Museum of Islamic Art: "the handsome building offers a clear rebuke to flamboyant architecture elsewhere in the Gulf."
- Rose on five new arts venues in the East Midlands, U.K.: too many, the beginning of a golden age?
- Noah's Ark at L.A.'s Skirball is a hit on many levels.
- Stern's Harvard Law project: "Getting it built may require the vision of a lawyer."
- Q&A with NOMA's Lewis re: his plans for reversing the low number of minority architects.
- An eyeful of Rockwell's Nobu in Dubai.
- Lots of diversions for the long holiday weekend: NYC's Center for Architecture: "it's hard to believe a resource like this exists without everyone in the city knowing about it."
- Road trip! Kentucky and Ohio have a wealth of architectural treasures to explore.
- Gehry, the artist, on view at Princeton.
- Rawsthorn on Ron Arad retrospective at the Centre Pompidou: "purists may sneer at his showmanship, but collectors love it."
- Pearman highly recommends a visit to "England's seaside favela" and it's newest "enigmatic object."
- Page turners: Glazer's latest is the "story of modern architecture's willingness to subjugate people to its utopian fantasies" (Atlantic Yards, for example).
- Saving Modernist landscapes, in pictures at least.
- Paul picks "a handful of small-but-beautiful books...mostly about reading, rather than looking."
- King crowns his holiday list.
- PLANetizen's Top 10 Books in the planning field.
- Best Real Estate Books of the Year include a lot about architecture and planning.
- We couldn't resist: an eyeful of a £250,000 doghouse (we kid you not).
- - Happy Thanksgiving!

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Plan for New Orleans Hospitals Draws Outcry: Preservationists and neighborhood activists oppose a plan that would lead to demolitions in a historic district... "That some will lose their homes as a result" is "just the reality of life." ...So why get rid of a neighborhood that is functioning...when so much of the city lies empty and unused? -- Moe/National Trust for Historic Preservation; Edward J. Blakely- *New York Times*

Smashing a jewel: It looks as if the old Shreve, Crump & Low building is history...in favor of nine stories of corporate glass and stone...If you're going to break people's hearts by erasing a beloved building rather than incorporating it into a new development, then for heaven's sake, propose something truly spectacular in its place. -- Cesar Pelli- *Boston Globe*

Melbourne crunch brings golden architecture era: ...in which those projects that do go ahead are of a higher quality than those of the recent boom period...Architects have confirmed times are tough, and many are not expecting much new work after March next year. -- NH Architecture; Billard Leece Partnership- *Architecture & Design (Australia)*

Germaine Greer on Barratt's Home for the Future: The first person to design a gracious zero carbon home will have to be a genius at least as innovative and epoch-making as Brunelleschi....The shortlist of nine designs displayed all the usual shifts adopted by the eco-architect...The public was...to respond to what the judges called the 'wow factor'. -- Gaunt Francis Architects- *The Architects' Journal (UK)*

The house you built: the property awards: ...nine shortlisted entries for the 'Zero Carbon Home for the Future'...Mail on Sunday British Homes Awards... -- Gaunt Francis Architects; HTA Architects; Stride Treglown; 56.46 Design Group; AEW Architects; Avanti Architects; SMAL; Bell Phillips Architects; Grafik Architects; ECD Architects; Richardson Architecture [images]- *Mail on Sunday (UK)*

Ellis Woodman on I.M. Pei's Museum of Islamic Art in Doha and suggests the handsome building offers a clear rebuke to flamboyant architecture elsewhere in the Gulf. [images]- *BD/Building Design (UK)*

The theatre that's inside-out: Leicester's £61m Curve is a revolution in the world of stage - and it's just one of five new arts venues in the East Midlands. How much art can the country take? It could be that the golden age has just begun. By Steve Rose -- Rafael Viñoly; Foreign Office Architects (FOA); Caruso St John; Fielden Clegg Bradley; Peter Clash- *Guardian (UK)*

OSKA's Noah's Ark exhibit huge hit in LA: The exhibit at Los Angeles' Skirball Cultural Center uses found materials, a clean design and a sophisticated palette to teach children lessons on diversity and cooperation. -- Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen [images]- *Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce*

Northwest Passage: A great building begins as a gleam in the eye of an architect. Getting it built may require the vision of a lawyer...despite the success of the campaign, the school is still in search of more major support for the project... -- Robert A.M. Stern Architects [images]- *Harvard Law Bulletin*

Q&A: The Mentor: R. Steven Lewis: Reversing the low number of minority architects, says NOMA's new president, requires addressing future generations through nationwide community efforts and institutional partnerships. By Edward Keegan -- National Organization of Minority Architects- *Architect Magazine*

Rockwell Follows Nobu to Dubai [images]- *Metropolis Magazine*

Public Good: Architect clubhouse introduces everyday citizens to good design: So much educational design activity surrounds the Center for Architecture...it's hard to believe a resource like this exists without everyone in the city knowing about it. - *NY Daily News*

Architectural Magnets: Build It (Boldly) And They Will Come: ...we drove up through Kentucky and Ohio and witnessed the Bilbao effect emerging in several of their respective cities. -- Libeskind; Gehry; Moore Ruble Yudell; Bernard Tschumi; Mack

Scogin Merril Elam; Antoine Predock; Coop Himmelb(l)au; Pei Cobb Freed; Sejima/Nishizawa/Sanaa- Bristol Herald Courier (Virginia)

Architect as Artist: "Frank Gehry: On Line" at the Princeton University Art Museum...As a study of architectural process, this show is fascinating. [images]- New York Times

Revisiting Ron Arad and his spirited showmanship: The furniture designer and star of "design-art" ...is the subject of a retrospective at the Centre Pompidou in Paris...is now regarded as a design grande, not a subversive...purists may sneer at his showmanship, but collectors love it. By Alice Rawsthorn [slide show]- International Herald Tribune

Faith, hope and sub-prime: Nathan Coley reveals England's seaside favela...Brooklands Estate. This 1930s bungalow colony is, let's not beat about the bush, a slum, a favela. Just the place for a Turner-shortlisted artist to insert an enigmatic object. A sculpture generated by its flaky surroundings, a house that is not a house. By Hugh Pearman [images]- HughPearman.com

Book review: A Wrench in the Machine for Living: Frank Gehry Comes to Brooklyn: "From a Cause to a Style: Modernist Architecture's Encounter with the American City" by Nathan Glazer...story of modern architecture's willingness to subjugate people to its utopian fantasies...how a style that had aspirations to represent a populist vision became an elitist one. By Charles Taylor -- Koolhaas; Ouroussoff; Serra; Maya Lin; Jane Jacobs; Robert Moses - Dissent Magazine

Saving That Landscape, in Pictures at Least: Cultural Landscape Foundation has commissioned photographers to capture for posterity significant landscapes at risk of being lost... "Marvels of Modernism" ... -- Charles A. Birnbaum; Lawrence Halprin; Tom Fox/SWA Group; I.M. Pei; Dan Kiley; John Ormsbee Simonds; Edward L. Daugherty; M. Paul Friedberg; Minoru Yamasaki; Thomas D. Church/Robert Royston- New York Times

Designing for simplicity: Architecture books don't have to be big to be bold: ...a handful of small-but-beautiful (well, sort of) books...mostly about reading, rather than looking... By Steve Paul -- Ada Louise Huxtable; William J. Mitchell; William S. Saunders; Jennifer Siegal; Anthony Vidler- Kansas City Star

Holiday books: Architecture. By John King -- Joseph Esherick; Cliff May; Julia Christensen; Daniel Libeskind; Paul Goldberger; Le Corbusier; Deborah Berke; Thomas J. Campanella; etc.- San Francisco Chronicle

Top 10 Books - 2009: ...best books in the planning field. With titles covering some of the most timely issues in planning -- from form-based codes to exploding growth in China... -- Ricky Burdett/Deyan Sudjic; Thomas J. Campanella; Richard Florida; Michael Kwartler/Gianni Longo; etc.- PLANetizen

NAREE Names Best Real Estate Books of the Year in Robert Bruss Book Competition -- "Prefabulous: The House of Your Dreams Delivered Fresh from the Factory"; "Creating Value - Smart Development and Green Design" by Vernon Swaback; etc.. - National Association of Real Estate Editors (NAREE)

World's most expensive kennel: Great Dane owner shells out £250,000 for doghouse complete with spa and plasma TV -- Andy Ramus [images]- Mail on Sunday (UK)

-- Weiss/Manfredi: Taekwondo Park: Ascending Passages, Muju, Korea
-- Renovation & extension: Erick van Egeraat: Municipal Theatre, Haarlem, The Netherlands

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